



Methamphetamine Task Force

Meeting minutes

June 4, 2009

Summary

Methamphetamine Task Force Members Present (15):

Anthony Coulson, Chair (Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration)
Billie Grobe (Chief Probation Officer, Yavapai County)
Brant Benham (Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau, Arizona Department of Public Safety)
Don Sherrard (Phoenix Police Department)
Hope McDonald Lonetree (Councilwoman, 20th Navajo Nation Council)
Jane Irvine (Director, Community Outreach and Education, Arizona Attorney General's Office)
Jennie Lagunas (Interagency Services Manager, Arizona Department of Health Services)
Kathy Karam (Program Manager, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)
Kathy Rice (Prevention Education Specialist, Arizona Department of Education)
Kelly Lane for Terry Rozema (Commander, Pima County/Tucson Metropolitan Counter Narcotics Alliance)
Mark Ewy (Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinator, Arizona Department of Economic Security)
Ron Dalrymple (Executive Director, Arizona Board of Technical Registration)
Scott Cocuzza (Business and Community Member)
Steve Tyrrell (Program Manager, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts)
Warren Koontz (Inter Tribal Council)

Members Absent (7):

Carol Chicharello (AHCCCS, Tribal Relations Liaison)
Dean Wright (Compliance Officer, Arizona State Board of Pharmacy)
John Dempsey (Chief Administrator, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)
Pat Benchik (Executive Director, COPE Behavioral Services)
Rich Rosky (HIDTA Coordinator, NMCI Southwest Meth Initiative)
Steve Schieman (Investigations Officer, Target Corporation)
Sylvia Homer (Colorado River Indian Tribe Methamphetamine Coalition)

Public members (10):

Bob Irish (Arizona Board of Technical Registration)
Briana Kreibich (GOCYF – Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Cindy Daugherty (GOCYF- Division for Finance and Administration)
Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Jim Copple (SAI)
Keri Raichert (GOCYF-Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Leticia Mendoza (GOCYF – Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Morgan Hester (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)
Sarah Brichler (Pima Prevention Partnership)
Tonya Hamilton (GOCYF- Division for Substance Abuse Policy)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Anthony Coulson called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Coulson welcomed and praised members for the ongoing efforts of the working groups. Mr. Coulson noted several membership changes among ASAP's subcommittee chairs. Mr. Coulson recognized the previous Chair Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall and noted she will continue to play a role in implementation of the priority recommendations. Mr. Coulson noted that as a seated member of ASAP and chair of this sub-committee he will provide updates at all ASAP meetings to ensure the committee's work is reported to the statewide council. Mr. Coulson requested for members and the public to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF 2-25-09 MINUTES

Mr. Coulson called members attention to the minutes. Members reviewed the minutes; Ms. Karam motioned to approve minutes as written, Mr. Coucuzza second. The motion was carried with no objections.

OVERVIEW OF REVISED PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Coulson referred to Mr. Copple to lead an overview of the progress and background of the Meth Task Force recommendations. Mr. Copple noted the process has become easier, in that minutes from work group meetings will serve as the quarterly reporting that is required to capture progress. It is noted that the task force started with 10 priority recommendations, and through the meetings of the smaller workgroups it was determined to consolidate to 7 recommendations.

Recommendation 1

Establishing a single point of contact for substance abuse policy is well on its way to full implementation.

Recommendation 2

Addresses the many media campaigns that air both nationally and locally. The task force still needs to evaluate and measure the impact of media campaigns. This recommendation has remained in progress.

Recommendation 3

This has become a task of ASAP to ensure promotion and advancement of evidence base prevention strategies. This recommendation is still in process and moving forward. Ms. Kreibich noted that the previous recommendation three and four were combined, as recommendation three previously tasked the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to

have a school based prevention professional at every school. This was not feasible in that the resources are not available to support. The revised recommendation includes a strategies ADE can support and work to implement.

Recommendation 4

This recommendation deals with the access to treatment. Through the Executive Order 2008-01, state agencies were required to report on changes made within their agencies to ensure appropriate and immediate substance abuse treatment to children and their parents involved in the child welfare system. It is noted that at the federal level states will see additional funding for drug courts.

Recommendation 5

Activities are ongoing with this recommendation and progress is being made to address precursor chemicals. It is noted that Sgt. Sherrard will provide and update later in the agenda.

Recommendation 6

This recommendation focuses on Drug Endangered Protocols. The Division for Substance Abuse Policy is working to revive the Arizona DEC Alliance. Ms. Kreibich notes that DEC is a 2009 Strategic Focus Area of ASAP and strategies for this recommendation will be developed in partnership with that body. It is noted that at the federal level states will see additional funding for this issue as well.

Recommendation 7

This recommendation focuses on the remediation of meth labs. Arizona had a significant decrease in the number of labs; however current data reflects a slight increase for 2009. This recommendation will continue to require vigilance at the state level.

APPROVAL OF REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Coulson called members attention to the revised recommendations. Members reviewed the recommendations Mr. Coulson called for changes, no noted changes. Mr. Cocuzza moved to approve the recommendations as written, Ms. Grobe seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objections.

Ms. Lagunas provided an overview of activities of the recommendation four workgroup. Ms. Lagunas noted that the Department of Health Services is working with the Department of Juvenile Corrections for issues surrounding substance abuse treatment upon reentry. She notes that ADJC is applying for a reentry grant. In addition DHS and the Governor's Office are coordinating to enhance ATR efforts. In an effort to streamline the process the group and it partners are looking into how the quality of care given by treatment providers is measured in different settings such as corrections and probation.

Sgt. Sherrard provided overview of recommendation number five. He stresses law enforcement concerns regarding smurfing of pseudoephedrine. It is noted that an increase in the practice is anticipated as California is working to pass legislation requiring pseudoephedrine to be a schedule drug. There is potential that the Board of Pharmacy could enact a requirement for pharmacist to report the sales of pseudoephedrine into the electronic system currently in place. The system and software are up and running, however, legislation that mandates pharmacies to report sales is not in effect. In addition the system does not report sales in real time. The workgroup recommends that Arizona continues to move forward through the board of pharmacy and mandate for licensure to require reporting or go to legislature. In response to a question, board of pharmacy is taking it under advisement. In terms of what the resistance is around passing legislation, Arizona Retailer's Association would be out if it pseudoephedrine moves to a schedule drug and receive a little resistance from the public (i.e. Citizens do not want to go to the doctor for pseudoephedrine products). With the increase in smurfing Arizona is seeing a rise in mom and pop labs, not necessarily super labs.

Mr. Copple noted that task force has done a great deal. However, meth is a drug that continues to resurface. Mr. Sherrard noted that an individual presenting fake identification is one method of getting around the loopholes. Mr. Brant asks whether moving to scheduled drug would be an issue in terms of diversion. Mr. Coulson mentioned that it would be a controlled substance and would have to be tracked and controlled. It is noted that Mexican cartels know that in the U.S. we do not have the resources to decrease the demand to the degree that it wouldn't be profitable. So, the cartels are waiting it out – it's their business plan. Cartel members are moving to Asia to coordinate trafficking of pseudoephedrine and to Latin America.

Sgt. Sherrard noted the decrease in cost of methamphetamine; it still cost about \$1,800 to manufacture a pound of meth and can turn around and sell it at \$21,000. Mr. Coulson noted that from an enforcement perspective they have not identified a number at which demand will change. Mr. Copple noted that price is not a variable, as individuals will find a way – reinforced importance of prevention.

Mr. Coulson referred to initiatives to address pharmaceuticals. Mr. Benham noted he has not seen messaging out to the public on the issue with smurfing pseudoephedrine. Ms. Lempke noted the tie in from a media perspective – earned media potential and community coalitions could implement community level strategies to communicate this message.

Mr. Copple noted the federal funding opportunity to look at is a real time data system and the funding would allow for a potential pilot project in Arizona. Mr. Copple noted that pseudoephedrine has been implemented into mainstream society, such as alcohol. He states that due to the volume – it's a very disruptive process for pharmacists. Mr. Coulson noted that we will move forward and working group will continue to address the issue.

Mr. Dalrymple with Board of Technical Registration (BTR) provided overview of recommendation seven. He stated that since the start of the program, at least 183 sites in the state of AZ have been seized. The BTR is still working with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) to find gaps in these numbers. In addition 42 sites have not been remediated. Numbers are staying consistent in terms of reports for remediation. The BTR is still drilling down on the numbers to determine more precisely the magnitude of the problem.

Only two entities are contracted with the BTR to conduct the remediation. He notes the attempts made to bring more entities on board for remediation – 11 entities responded requesting additional information. In an effort to increase contracted entities the BTR has reduced cost of licensure for firms and individuals to \$20 a year. Due to the limited number of requests for remediation services, this is generally an added service to an existing business. Perhaps to attract additional participation the BTR is looking into whether contractors need to be certified to do asbestos clean –up, or if they could contract with another entity should they run into asbestos during the remediation process. The cost for remediation is averaging about \$7,000. Ms. Irvine asks whether or not is there another barrier – such as insurance requirements. Mr. Irish noted that there are many loopholes and requirements for businesses to go through in order to become a contracted provider, and they see this process as inconvenient.

The current Arizona regulations do not govern how they do business or regulate authority. The BTR is working with Arizona Department of Economic Quality to discuss whether or not there may be funding available to supplement the cost for clean up. However the financial burden to remediate lies with the homeowner, and with the price so high homeowners do not have thousands of dollars for clean up. Municipalities do not want to take on the liability of asking families to move out and potentially displacing families that are currently in a non-remediated site.

Mr. Dalrymple commented that low levels of exposure for long periods of time and more harmful than high level of exposure for short periods of time.

Mr. Dalrymple has met with HIDTA and the Attorney General's Office (AG) and prepared a packet of recommended legislation changes. This proposal is currently with the Attorney General's Office and they are seeking a sponsor. Mr. Coulson thanked BTR for the work.

ARIZONA SUBSTANCE ABUSE PARTNERSHIP

Ms. Hester provided an update on the activities of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership. Ms. Hester noted prescription drug pilot project in partnership with DEA, the Partnership for a Drug Free America, HIDTA, and Fry's. Pamphlet intended to relay to consumers safeguarding medications from children and proper disposal of pharmaceuticals. Ms. Grobe asked whether or not there is ability to add local protocol to brochure for communities. Ms. Hester noted that it's not necessarily geared towards

entire communities. Ms. Kreibich and Ms. Hester noted that it will be sent to coalitions to adapt. In addition Ms. Hester is working to revive the Arizona DEC Alliance. She mentions that currently the AG's Office and the Governor's Office are working to coordinated website information. In addition, Ms Hester updated members on the activities following the Tribal Drug Endangered Children Workshop. This included a request for additional training from several tribal communities, for example the Yavapai Apache.

Ms. Hester highlighted information from study released by Columbia University looking at the amount of funding states spend on treatment and prevention and the burden to the public.

ACCESS TO RECOVERY GRANT

Ms. Tonya Hamilton provided an overview and brief background of the Access To Recovery Grant. Arizona is currently in the second year of implementation. She stated that Pima County decided to opt out of the grant, however COPE Community Services stepped up to administer ATR services for Pima County. The scope of the program has changed from only serving adult drug court involved meth addicted individuals to include probation and intensive probation. Ms. Hamilton provided praise to Chief Grobe and Yavapai County for their partnership and program. It was noted additional counties have come on board including Cochise and Coconino. SAMSHA would like for the Arizona ATR to go into the community and provide services to general population. This month a pilot project was started in Pima County through COPE to provide services to general population with a meth addiction. The program director did ask SAMHSA if the program target population could be expanded beyond just meth involved clients, however approval was denied. Ms. Hamilton discussed the primary element of the program being client choice, GPRA surveys, involvement of community and faith based organization (25% of current providers are faith-based). In addition, she noted that in President's budget includes a request for a cohort 3 of the ATR funding. Arizona would like to take advantage of this opportunity. A question was asked regarding the process for identifying clients in the general population. For the pilot project COPE is utilizing their existing resources of meth specific groups and network to identify clients. In responding to Mr. Tyrell's question of if there is not federal continuation of funding how the program would be sustained. Ms. Hamilton noted with the current budget there is not funding or resources to sustain. However, the partnerships are there with community providers and faith based providers and the systems changes have occurred. This has resulted in stronger collaborative efforts to work smarter not harder.

ANTI- METHAMPHETAMINE COALITION UPDATE

Ms. Briana Kreibich provided an update on the activities of the Anti-Methamphetamine Coalitions and noted that Graham County was not available to report out today. It was relayed that the Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention funding

has termed for most Coalitions, however coalition efforts won't completely halt as many have been able to develop diversified funding streams to sustain their efforts.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Coulson thanked members, presenters, staff and Mr. Copple. Mr. Coulson announced the next meeting date as September 8, 2009 from 10am-12pm. He mentions to look for information from Ms. Kreibich on specific details. Mr. Coulson provided special recognition to Ms. Karam and thanked her for her work on the Task Force.

CALL TO PUBLIC

Ms. McDonald LoneTree asked whether the Governor's Office and the Task Force will be supporting SAMHSA's reauthorization. Mr. Coulson noted that likely SAMHSA will not only continue to exist but also thrive.

Mr. Koontz Noted that Indian Health Services provided funding to area offices to distribute within their areas for methamphetamine related prevention and intervention efforts. Mr. Coulson requested that contact information is provided for area offices to invite representatives from the area offices to participate in the next task force meeting.

Mr. Copple noted that it will be important to continue to stay on top of meth and be vigilant. Mr. Coulson noted that the players in Mexico have changed, noting that the violence disrupted the flow of methamphetamine, however, now more organized and when under stress will return to the drugs they can control, such as methamphetamine.

Mr. Coulson made call to the public and there were no responses.

ADJOURN

Chairman Coulson adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.